

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Bloomington Celebrates Disability Awareness Month during March 2016 and Community Accessibility Month during April 2016 (as of March 8, 2016)**

The months of March and April offer Bloomington a time to consider ways in which our community is a welcoming one to people with disabilities. During March, Bloomington and communities across Indiana celebrate **Disability Awareness Month**. In April, the City of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility celebrates **Accessibility Awareness Month**.

A wealth of activities will be occurring in Bloomington and on the IU campus over these next two months. Individuals with disabilities, family members, service providers, faculty, and other community members are encouraged to participate.

#### **MARCH DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES**

##### **Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>      ADA Radio Show: Fair Housing and the ADA**

The Fair Housing Act provides rights and protections to persons with disabilities living in multi-family housing. In this episode Kathy Gips, Director of Training at the New England ADA Center, will discuss the Fair Housing Act and how it relates to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the key requirements in the Fair Housing Act, requesting an accommodation or modification, service animals and parking. ADA Live Radio will air the program from 1:00 pm until 1:30 pm Eastern Time. This webinar is free and no registration is required, just "tune in" on the day and time of broadcast via this link: <http://adalive.org/episode30>.

##### **Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>      ADA Webinar: The ADA and Accommodating Employees with Allergies: Situations and Solutions**

The Mid-Atlantic ADA Center will present this webinar from 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm. Teresa Goddard, lead consultant with the Job Accommodation Network, will share case study examples illustrating a range of workplace accommodation options for individuals with allergies. Participants will explore workplace accommodation examples and strategies for service providers to optimize involvement in the ADA interactive process. Participants will also examine accommodation approaches such as strategies for reducing the risk of exposure to allergens and development of action plans in case of reaction at work. SHRM credits are available. The webinar is free but registration is required. Go to: <http://www.adainfo.org/training/webinar-accommodating-employees-allergies-situations-and-solutions> to register.

##### **Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>      Talent Show**

LIFEDesigns is partnering with Best Buddies of IU and the Kiwanis's Aktion Club to host a Talent Show at 6:00 pm at Bloomington High School North. Show begins at 6:00 pm promptly. Light concessions and snacks will be available before the show and during intermission and breaks provided by the Bloomington Self Advocates group. The event is free and open to the public. For further information, contact: Stephanie Shelton at [sshelton@lifedesignsinc.org](mailto:sshelton@lifedesignsinc.org) or call [812-332-9615](tel:812-332-9615).

**Saturday, March 5th                      PALS Volunteer Training**

PALS will conduct a volunteer training session at the PALS facility located at 7644 W. Elwren Road. There is no horse experience required to get started. The training will last from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Volunteer responsibilities include leading horses and side-walking clients during sessions as well as helping groom, saddle, train and care for horses and helping with barn chores. To sign up for the training, visit the PALS website at [www.palstherapy.org/volunteer](http://www.palstherapy.org/volunteer) or contact Abi Yates at [abi@palstherapy.org](mailto:abi@palstherapy.org) or 812-336-2798 Ext 15.

**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>                      IU Cinema Film: Margarita, with a Straw**

The film, titled, "*Margarita, with a Straw*," follows a bright young college student from India with a congenital physical disability (cerebral palsy) who comes to New York City for graduate studies. You can find out more on the film's web page here: [www.cinema.indiana.edu/margarita-with-a-straw](http://www.cinema.indiana.edu/margarita-with-a-straw). The film be screened at 7:00 pm – it is free, but tickets are needed.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>                      Display: Voices of Students with Disabilities**

This exhibit will be featured in the First Floor C Hallway of Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building. Students receiving services from the Disability Office will voice what it's like to be in college with a disability. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>                      Mock Interview Day**

Mock Interview Day is a chance for individuals with disabilities to practice interviewing skills with a community employer. The Job Developers Council will be hosting this event from 12:00-2:00 pm at Ivy Tech. The Job Development Council, a part of the Community Transition Council and Diversity Works, consists of representatives from Bloomington North and South High Schools, Community Transitions Program, LifeDesigns, Stone Belt, Centerstone, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. If interested in participating, contact Brandi Hamilton at [bhamilton@lifedesignsinc.org](mailto:bhamilton@lifedesignsinc.org).

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>                      Disability Etiquette Campaign**

This display will be available throughout the entire month of March in the First Floor C Hallway of Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>                      ADA Webinar: What the Disability Service Professional Needs to Know About the ADA**

The Northeast ADA Center will host a webinar offering an overview of the employment provisions of the ADA (Title I) from 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm Eastern Time. The webinar will cover a variety of topics including reasonable accommodation, the interactive process, and disability disclosure in the workplace, with special emphasis on the role disability service professionals play in the advancement of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The webinar is free but registration is required. Go to: <http://www.edi.cornell.edu/register/index.cfm?event=5548> to register.

**Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>                      Sensory Storytime**

Open to all preschoolers, this storytime is designed for children on the autism spectrum or with sensory integration issues. If your child has difficulty sitting through one of our other storytimes—or is just more comfortable in a small, interactive setting—try this program of stories, songs, and activities. Appropriate for aged 3-6. This event will be held from 10:00 am until 10:45 am in the Children's Program Room. Please register by calling the Library: 812-349-3057. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us](mailto:cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us).

**Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

**ADA Webinar: Establishing Disability Community Preparedness through State and Local Efforts**

The Pacific ADA Center and FEMA hosts this webinar from 2:30 pm until 4:00 pm. It will include two presentations demonstrating practices in the field that assist in the preparedness of people with disabilities. In the first half, presenters will discuss the development of a statewide task force on emergency management, disability, and functional needs support services (FNSS) issues, including an FNSS toolkit. This presentation will present a model for including individuals with disabilities and their organizations in advising and shaping emergency management practices and policy at the state level. The second presentation will engage audiences on how neighborhood Community Emergency Response Teams can assist local agencies in working collaboratively to enhance emergency preparedness for all at the neighborhood level with and for the entire neighborhood. This webinar is free but registration is required. Go to: <http://adapresentations.org/schedule.php> to register.

**Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**ADA Audio Conference: Audio Description - The Visual Made Verbal**

The Great Lakes ADA Center, on behalf of the ADA National Network, presents this audio conference from 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm Eastern Time. The session will provide an overview of the “Fundamentals of Audio Description” and access awareness, particularly with respect to people who are blind or have low vision. This audio conference is free and will be held at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Building L, 1905 N. Range Road. For more information, contact Matt Norris at [adainfo@indiana.edu](mailto:adainfo@indiana.edu) or call 812-855-6508. You can also view the free webinar on your own. Go to <http://dev.accessibilityonline.org/ADA-Audio/schedule> to register.

**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**ADA Webinar: Workplace Accommodations for Employees with Psychiatric Disabilities**

The Great Lakes ADA Center, on behalf of the ADA National Network, presents with webinar from 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm Eastern Time. The prevalence of employees with psychiatric disabilities in the workforce continues to rise. This session will discuss employment rights of persons with psychiatric disabilities under the ADA with emphasis on workplace accommodations. This webinar is free but registration is required. Go to: <http://dev.accessibilityonline.org/ada-legal/schedule> to register.

**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Autism-Friendly Movie: “Minions”**

The lights are up, the sound is low, and no one will complain about a little noise or movement. Movies are shown at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@mcpl.info](mailto:cjackson@mcpl.info) or 812-349-3050.

**Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Webinar: The State of Accessibility in the Online Workplace**

As the workplace becomes more digital, what changes have made employees’ lives easier or perhaps even created additional barriers unintentionally in the workplace? The Great Lakes ADA Center, on behalf of the ADA National Network, offers this webinar from 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm to examine the current state of online employment and discuss accessibility issues. This webinar is free but registration is required. Go to <http://dev.accessibilityonline.org/ada-tech/schedule> to register.

**Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**My Child Has Special Needs: Now What?**

About Special Kids (ASK) will host two workshops for parents at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Bloomington. The first training session (10:00 am – 12:00 Noon) will focus on finding information and services, family supports, coverage to pay for those services, and futures planning for a newly diagnosed child with a disability. There is no registration fee for family members; a registration fee for professionals is \$25.00. To register: [www.aboutspecialkids.org/training/training-calendar/my-child-has-special-needs-now-what-bloomington](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/training/training-calendar/my-child-has-special-needs-now-what-bloomington).

**Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**A Life with Stress, Balance and a Plan**

About Special Kids (ASK) will sponsor a second training for parents, which will be held from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Bloomington. This session will focus on identifying types of stressors, identify coping mechanisms and providing ways to incorporate them into everyday life, and the importance of good communication. Registration fee is \$10.00 for family members and \$25.00 for professionals. To register: [www.aboutspecialkids.org/training/training-calendar/a-life-with-stress,-balance-and-a-plan-bloomington](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org/training/training-calendar/a-life-with-stress,-balance-and-a-plan-bloomington).

**Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**ARF! Read to a Dog**

Registered therapy dogs listen to your child read aloud. This activity encourages a regular habit of reading for fun and aids development of reading skills. Great for readers of all abilities, but especially helpful for reluctant or struggling readers. Appropriate for ages 5-12. Drop in to the Children's Program Room at the Bloomington Public Library between 10:30 am and noon. Also available March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ellettsville branch. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@mcpl.info](mailto:cjackson@mcpl.info) or 812-349-3050.

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Talent Show: Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day**

Down Syndrome Family Connections will sponsor a Talent Show from 3:00 until 5:00 pm. It will occur at the Ellettsville Christian Church on 731 Independence Street in Ellettsville. For more information or to be a part of the talent show, contact Dawn Gray at [dawn@downsyndromefamilyconnection.org](mailto:dawn@downsyndromefamilyconnection.org) or call 812-720-9603.

**Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Film: "Handicap This!"**

This video will be featured at 11:30 am and 12:15 pm in Lamkin Hall, room C131 on the first floor in Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building. In this video, Tim Wambach and Mike Berkson share their story and friendship through educational and entertaining performance art that raises awareness about people born with severe physical handicaps and inspires individuals to achieve their own goals and dreams. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Disability Support Services Education Table**

The Education Table will be available in the First Floor Rotunda of Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building from 10:00 pm until Noon and from 2:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Disability Support Services information will also be available at all of Ivy Tech's planned events in March. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Two Films: "Elyn Saks, A Tale of Mental Illness...from the Inside" and "Ruby Wax, What's So Funny About Mental Illness?"**

These films will be screened at Noon and at 12:45 pm in Lamkin Hall, Room C131 on the first floor in Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building. Elyn Saks once asked her doctor, "Is it okay if I totally trash your office?" and it wasn't a joke. A legal scholar, Saks came forward in 2007 with her own story of schizophrenia, controlled by drugs and therapy but ever-present. In this powerful talk, she asks us to see people with mental illness clearly, honestly and compassionately. Now her work blends mental health advocacy and laughs. Ruby Wax is a loud, funny woman — who spent much of her comedy career battling depression in silence. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>      Disability Awareness Cookie Decorating**

This event will take place in the Hoosier Times Student Commons on the first floor of the Cook Pavilion from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm or until we run out of cookies. This will give students the chance to help spread awareness and recognize the different visible and invisible disabilities of people they know. Disability Support Services information will also be available. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>      Film: "Roger Ebert, Remaking My Voice"**

This video will be featured at Noon and at 12:45 pm in Lamkin Hall, Room C131 on the first floor in Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building. When film critic Roger Ebert lost his lower jaw to cancer, he lost the ability to eat and speak. But he did not lose his voice. In a moving talk from TED2011, Ebert and his wife, Chaz, with friends Dean Ornish and John Hunter, come together to tell his remarkable story. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>      Disability Simulation Stations**

This event will take place in the new Hoosier Times Student Commons on the first floor of the Cook Pavilion, which is the new expansion of the Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building at Ivy Tech. This event will run from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Simulation tables will be set up for students to interact as they discover what it's like to experience the following: Chronic Pain and/or Cerebral Palsy, Visual Impairment, and Hearing Impairment. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>      Film: Indianapolis Colts Spokesman, Josh Bleill**

Josh Bleill tells people he had "one bad day" while on combat patrol in Fallujah, Iraq, on October 15, 2006. Viewers will be inspired by his undying enthusiasm, infectious joy, and sense of humor as he shares his message of going forward, one step at a time. The film will be shown at Noon and 12:45 pm in Lamkin Hall, Room C131 on the first floor in Ivy Tech's Connie and Steve Ferguson Academic Building. For more information, contact Amy Mobley at [amobley21@ivytech.edu](mailto:amobley21@ivytech.edu).

**Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>      City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility**

The regular monthly meeting of the City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility (CCA) will be held on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at City Hall in the McCloskey Conference Room (#135). The meeting is open to all who are interested in making Bloomington a more accessible city. For more information, contact Michael Shermis at [shermism@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:shermism@bloomington.in.gov).

## **APRIL ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES**

### **Wednesday, April 6th      Transition Fair**

The Monroe/Owen Transition Council will host its annual Transition Fair on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Ivy Tech Community College in the Student Commons/Shreve Hall. There will be more than 30 vendors from adult service providers to recreation to advocacy to transportation represented. This year's theme is "Be a Star: Walk the Red Carpet." For further information, contact Brandi Hamilton at [bhamilton@lifedesignsinc.org](mailto:bhamilton@lifedesignsinc.org).

### **Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>      Sensory Storytime**

Open to all preschoolers, this storytime is designed for children on the autism spectrum or with sensory integration issues. If your child has difficulty sitting through one of our other storytimes—or is just more comfortable in a small, interactive setting—try this program of stories, songs, and activities. Appropriate for aged 3-6. This event will be held from 10:00 am until 10:45 am in the Children's Program Room. Please register by calling the Library: 812-349-3057. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us](mailto:cjackson@monroe.lib.in.us).

### **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>      Tax Day Soup Fundraiser**

Stone Belt is hosting a soup fundraiser at Bobby's Colorado Steakhouse, where guests can name their price for a delicious bowl of ham and bean soup, accompanied by sweet and savory cornbread. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Stone Belt – it gives contributors an early start on their 2016 tax deductions! The full lunch menu will be available – however, only soup orders will count as a tax deductible gift for Stone Belt. This event is from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm. Surprise local celebrity negotiators are scheduled to attend! For more information, contact Jana Surigao at [jsurigao@stonebelt.org](mailto:jsurigao@stonebelt.org).

### **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>      Call for Artists: Art Expo: "Hidden Talents: Celebrating Abilities through Exposition"**

Artists with Autism Spectrum Disorder or who represent communities celebrating Autism Awareness Month are invited to submit artwork for Art Expo. The Expo will occur on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the IUPUI Campus Center in Indianapolis. Eligible artwork includes fine art (drawing, painting, or sculpture), mixed media (artwork using more than one medium such as beads, feathers), photography, digital media (digital illustrations and so on). Original artwork or prints of original artwork will be on display during the Art Expo. Submit your art via this link: [www.HANDSinAutism.iupui.edu/conferences.html](http://www.HANDSinAutism.iupui.edu/conferences.html).

### **Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>      ARF! Read to a Dog**

Registered therapy dogs listen to your child read aloud. This activity encourages a regular habit of reading for fun and aids development of reading skills. Great for readers of all abilities, but especially helpful for reluctant or struggling readers. Appropriate for ages 5-12. Drop in to the Children's Program Room at the Bloomington Public Library between 10:30 am and Noon. Also available April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Ellettsville branch. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@mcpl.info](mailto:cjackson@mcpl.info) or 812-349-3050.

### **Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>      Movie: "Where Hope Grows"**

Down Syndrome Family Connection is sponsor of the screening of this film. It stars David DeSanctis, who happens to have Down syndrome. It will be screened at the IU Fine Arts Theater at 3:00 pm. The film is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cyndi Johnson at [cyndi@downsyndromefamilyconnection.org](mailto:cyndi@downsyndromefamilyconnection.org) or call 812-720-9603.

**Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>                      “Where Hope Grows” VIP Meet and Greet**

Following the afternoon screening of *“Where Hope Grows,”* Down Syndrome Family Connection is hosting a “VIP Meet and Greet” event at 5:00 pm with David DeSanctis, star of the movie. For a cost of \$25 per person, participants will receive reserved seating to the movie just prior to the VIP Meet and Greet, a signed copy of the DVD, a photo op with David, hors d'oeuvres, Italian sodas, and live music. The location of this paid event is still to be determined. For more information, contact Cyndi Johnson [cyndi@downsyndromefamilyconnection.org](mailto:cyndi@downsyndromefamilyconnection.org) or call 812-720-9603.

**Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>                      It Matters to Me**

The Stone Belt Board’s Advocacy Committee is hosting *“It Matters to Me,”* an event designed to keep you up-to-date on important issues that affect people with disabilities, their family, and the community. John Dickerson, former Executive Director of The Arc of Indiana, will keynote an evening of informative sessions on several topics including changes to Medicaid funding, community-based services, and the Able Act. There will be chances to win door prizes for those who attend! This event will take place from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jana Surigao at [jsurigao@stonebelt.org](mailto:jsurigao@stonebelt.org).

**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>                      ADA Audio Conference: Hot Legal Topics in Accessible Transportation**

Are emotional support animals permitted on airplanes? What type of cases under the Americans with Disabilities Act have been filed lately against public transportation systems? Are ride-sharing services covered by the ADA? Find out the answers to these questions—and more—by participating in the April ADA Audio Conference, sponsored by the Great Lakes ADA Center, on behalf of the ADA National Network. From 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm, the session will provide an update on the latest legal trends in the world of accessible transportation. It will focus on a wide-range of transportation issues including taxicabs, ride-sharing services, air travel, public transportation and private transportation, and address both Title II and Title III issues. This audio conference is free and will be held at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Building L, 1905 N. Range Road. Or you can register to view the webinar on your own. Go to <http://dev.accessibilityonline.org/ADA-Audio/schedule> to register. For more information, contact Matt Norris at [adainfo@indiana.edu](mailto:adainfo@indiana.edu) or call 812-855-6508.

**Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>                      Movie: “Autism in Love”**

This documentary film will be screened at 2:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers, Suite 115 at 401 North Morton Street. This highly acclaimed, insightful, and touching documentary, directed by Max Fuller, brings awareness to the challenges of dating and love for people who have an autism spectrum disorder. It’s a raw, sometimes emotional look into the lives of four people with ASD who share their frustrations, pain, and successes in trying to find, date, love, and connect to someone who understands and appreciates them. Doors will open at 2:00 pm. Questions and answers with Lindsey Nebeker and Dave Hamrick, a couple featured in the film, will follow at 4:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free but seating is limited. Please register online at <http://go.iu.edu/197T>. For more information, contact Melissa Dubie at [mdubie@indiana.edu](mailto:mdubie@indiana.edu) or Lisa Bidwell at [lbidwell@indiana.edu](mailto:lbidwell@indiana.edu).

**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>                      City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility**

The regular monthly meeting of the City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility (CCA) will be held on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm at City Hall in the McCloskey Conference Room (#135). The meeting is open to all who are interested in making Bloomington a more accessible city. For more information, contact Michael Shermis at [shermism@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:shermism@bloomington.in.gov).



**Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>      Autism-Friendly Movie: "The Peanuts Movie"**

The lights are up, the sound is low, and no one will complain about a little noise or movement. Movies are shown at the Monroe County Public Library in the Auditorium on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. For more information, contact Chris Jackson at [cjackson@mcpl.info](mailto:cjackson@mcpl.info) or 812-349-3050.